

Remarks

Claims 1-7 were rejected under section 112. The applicant has amended claim 1 to remove the reference to a "standard" CD. The Applicant thus submits the rejection has been overcome.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, and 21 as being anticipated by Wong. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection noting that claim 1 recites that the locking fingers are integrally formed with the sidewall of the hub. The claim has been amended to recite that the fingers are non-removable from the sidewall. The Wong fingers are not integral with the Wong sidewall and are removed from the Wong sidewall. Wong thus does not anticipate claims 1, 7, or 21.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 9, and 22 as being anticipated by O'Brien. The Examiner rejected the remaining claims as being obvious in view of the combination of O'Brien and Dean. The applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in view of the current amendments. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to require the sidewall of the hub to be free of openings such as those required to be formed in the hub of O'Brien to form the flexible locking fingers. The locking fingers of the present invention are thin enough to be formed without cutouts such as those disclosed in the O'Brien reference. The locking fingers of the claims are substantially different that those disclosed in O'Brien and the applicant submits the claims now recite a structure that is patentable over the O'Brien reference whether it is taken alone or in combination with secondary references such as Dean.

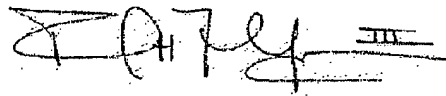
The benefit of the structure recited in the claims reciting that the upper surface of the locking fingers is coplanar with the upper surface of the hub is shown in Figs. 12 and 13 wherein the lid is shown to keep the locking fingers disposed over the upper surface of the disc. This limitation has been added to claim 16 and it is submitted to be patentable over the art. New claim 25 has also been added to recite this relationship.

The undersigned attorney has been given power of attorney in this application and has been asked to prepare this response by the application. The

applicant has not, however, yet filed a written power of attorney. As such, the undersigned attorney cannot sign the terminal disclaimer required to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejections. The applicant will submit the terminal disclaimer in response to the next office action.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance for the claims.

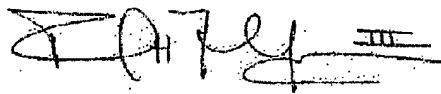
Please call the undersigned attorney if any issues remain after this amendment.



Fred H. Zollinger III
Registration No. 39,438
Zollinger & Burleson Ltd.
P.O. Box 2368
North Canton, OH 44720
Phone: 330-526-0104
Fax: 1-866-311-9964

Certificate of Mailing/Facsimile

I hereby certify that this correspondence (Reply in application serial no. 10/693,035 filed October 24, 2003) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail (with sufficient postage) in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, OR is being transmitted by facsimile to 703-872-9306 on June 7, 2005.



Fred H. Zollinger III, Reg. No. 39,438